

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**Hearing Date:** November 19, 2005

**Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:** Continuing Education – Independent Learning

**Sections Affected:** 1397.60(d) and (g), 1397.61(a) and 1397.62(c) and (d)

**Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:**

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to increase the number of hours a licensee can accrue via distance learning to the full 36 hours (100%) of mandatory continuing education required in each renewal cycle.

**Factual Basis/Rationale**

Currently, a licensed psychologist renewing his/her license must complete 36 hours of mandatory continuing education. Section 1397.60(g) states that a maximum of 18 hours (50%) of these hours can be accrued via distance learning. This proposal would increase the number of hours allowed via distance learning to 100% (the full 36 hours). Since the last amendment of section 1397.60, there has been an increasing number of approved providers who now offer a variety of courses available via the internet, CD-ROM, satellite downlink, home study, correspondence, etc., thereby allowing the licensee to accrue the mandatory continuing education in a more convenient manner.

The term “distance” learning is being replaced with “independent” learning to more accurately reflect the manner in which psychologists are allowed to accrue continuing education.

Section 1397.61(a) of this proposal would omit any reference to the number of hours that can be accrued via distance learning to be consistent with the language in section 1397.60(g).

Section 1397.62(c) is being repealed as the changes to section 1397.60 would allow all licensees to accrue all continuing education through independent learning, therefore, the need for an onsite exemption would no longer be required.

Section 1397.62(d) is being re-lettered to (c).

**Underlying Data**

N/A

**Business Impact**

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

**Specific Technologies or Equipment**

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

**Consideration of Alternatives**

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.